कहना चाहता हूं कि आपने सब बातें कही। किसान की जमीन कुर्क नहीं हो, चाहे बैंक का कर्ज हो, चाहे मनी लेंडर का कर्ज हो इस बात को कैसे रोका जाए, इसके बारे में भी आप विचार करें।

श्री शरद पवार: सर, आज के डिसकसन में इसके बारे में सुझाव आया था और फाइनांस मिनिस्ट्री और रिजर्व बैंक से बात करने की आवश्यकता हैं।

श्री सभापति: आप बात कीजिए।

श्री शरद पवार: Means of income, land, चूंकि इसके ऊपर कर्ज का बोझ है, इसके लिए बाकी दूसरी चीजें ले सकते हैं, मगर उसकी जमीन ही लेकर उसके हर दिन का उत्पादन करने का अधिकार ही खत्म कर देना और उसे बिल्कुल सड़क पर ले आना, इसे दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है Definitely I will consult with my colleague, the Finance Minister, and take some action. As regards the two items, onion and chilli, I had received a proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government, and I have communicated to the Government. The Government of India is ready to bear the financial burden up to 50 per cent, and is ready to support the Market Intervention Scheme, for red chilli. We have not received any proposal from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra about onion yet, but we are expecting proposals. We have made enough provision for that. And thirdly about cotton. जहां तक महाराष्ट्र की बात है, महाराष्ट्र में कॉटन प्रोक्योरमेंट स्कीम के माध्यम से उन्हें मदद करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जो बात यहां कही गई कि उन्हें एक हजार करोड़ रुपए देने की बात थी, यह बात सच है, मगर यह पैसा लास्ट वीक में रिलीज हो गया, इसका पेमेंट शुरू हो गया है। जहां तक आन्ध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, कर्नाटक और पंजाब, चार राज्यों में कॉटन प्रोक्योरमेंट के लिए सीसीआई को इंस्ट्रक्शन दिया गया है और राशि का प्रबन्ध भी किया गया है और वहां इसके सेंटर्स बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, यह बात उन्हें कही गई है।

श्री सभापति: आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। आपको स्टेटमेंट देना है।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the First Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food,

Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution in pursuance of provision 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, issued by the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 28th, 2004.

A statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution is annexed. It may be noted that the report contains 25 recommendations. These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution. And as many as 22 recommendations have been accepted and action taken thereon. The remaining three recommendations could not be accepted for the reasons mentioned against these recommendations are enclosed.

The action taken replies have been sent to the Committee on 8th December, 2004

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, every Ministry should do this. All Ministries should provide such statements.

श्री सभापति: यह काम पहली बार शुरू हुआ है, अभी शुरू हुआ है। Now, Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao.

Statement indicating Action Taken Report on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)

Recommendation No./Para No.	Recommendation	Action Taken by the Govt.	Whether Accepted or not	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1. (1.11)	The Government should ensure spreading of expenditure evenly in all the four quarters of the year without any exception.	Efforts are being made towards spreading expenditure evenly during each quarter for the current year by adoption of Cash Flow Management System.	Accepted	
2. (2.69)	**Decentralised Procurement** (i) Government should encourage the decentralized procurement operation by launching awareness campaign, in Print and Audio-visual Media, Village Fairs, Panchayats, Agricultural Extension Services/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras so that the benefit of decentralised procurement is reaped by the farmers.	(i, ii, & iv): The Central Government is encouraging the State Governments to decentralized procurement system. The Department has impressed upon the State Governments gradually increase their share in (procurement of foodgrains and also ensure adequate infrastructure facilities at procurement centre and storage points. FCI and the State Governments have been requested to	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii) Infrastructure facilities should be improved and adequate number of mobile and temporary procurement centres set up in non-traditional States.	launch awareness campaign in print and audiovisual media so that the benefits reach the farmers. They have also been requested to set up adequate number of mobile and temporary procurement centres.		
	(iii) Need-Based credit be made available to these States.	(iii) Recommendations are being made to RBI to sanction adequate cash credit limit to FCI/State Governments.		
	(iv) Adequate technical staff posted and measuring and other equipments required for the procurement be put up in place before the operation of the system.			
	(v) To promote decentralized procurement, an incentive scheme,for the benefit of non-traditional States be thought of.	(v) A Committee on Decentralized Procurement under the Chairmanship of AS&FA of the Department with Food Secretaries of U.P., M.P. and Chhattisgarh was constituted to promote decentralized procurement. Action on the recommendations made by the Committee has been taken.		
3. 2.70	Ways and means should be found out to reduce procurement	A number of steps have been taken for containing/reducing expendi-	Accepted	

	incidental charges and distribution cost. The reduction in distribution cost can be effected by planning economy in the movement of distribution of foodgrains from procurement centres to consumption/distribution centres and also by promoting decentralized procurement.	tures on items included in procurement incidental costs. States are being encouraged to adopt the denaturalized procurement for reducing distribution cost. It has been decided to freeze the levy prices for the current Kharif marketing Season at the last year's level.	
4.	**PDS**		
(2.71)	The coverage of the Targeted Public Distribution System should be extended beyond 6.5 crore families living below poverty line.	The higher number of BPL families in certain States is perhaps due to improper identification and issue of BPL ration cards to ineligible families or existence of bogus ration cards. States have been asked time and again to review the identification of the families to bring the number to the realistic level.	Accepted
5.	Identification of BPL families should be completed within 6 months in all	Concerned State Govts. have been asked to identify BPL/AAY families	Accepted
(2.72)	the States.	without delay.	
6.	The APL population should be stratified in two categories, either	It is not practical or feasible to make	Not
(2.73)	on the basis of income or	such a distinction.	Accepted

1	2	3	4	5
	expenditure, and the so called "creamylayer" should be barred from the benefit of this scheme.		Committee has been apprised (Noted)	
7. (2.74)	For the effective implementation of PDS (i) Enforcement machineries, have to be stepped up, (ii) criminal liability clause under PDS (Control) Order, 2001, invoked and (iii) Area Officers visits made compulsory.	States have been asked to take effective steps. Area Officers Scheme has been made more effective.		
8. (2.75)	The enforcement agencies/ vigilance Committees in the States should be strengthened in order to check various irregularities.	State Governments have been asked accordingly.	Accepted	
9. (2.76)	(i) The Government should take the average annual offtake in the past, say, last 3 to 5 years to form the basis of allocation for the next year, so that the foodgrains are allocated on the basis of requirement.	(a) The suggestion of the Standing Committee for taking average annual off-take of last three of five years, for the basis of allocation for the next year, has been forwarded to all the Nodal Ministries of each welfareScheme/FCI/State Government/UT, to adopt the procedure.	Accepted	
	(ii) There should be some mechanism with the Central Government so that the State Governments can be made accountable and they are not able to escape from their responsibility	(B) A Nodal Officer of the rank of Additional Chief Secretary in each State has been appointed to prioritize/ fix the need of the State under each scheme so that the offtake will be keeping with the allocation.		

	of making operational arrangements for distribution of foodgrains on a regular basis.		
10. (2.77)	An inquiry by CBI or any other higher investigative agency be instituted into the transactions relating to Open Market Sale and export of foodgrains.	CVC has been requested to conduct an enquiry in the matter.	Accepted
11. (2.78)	The matter of disposal of issuable stock of rice/wheat as damaged stocks, that has been reported in various procurement centres, especially in West Bengal be inquired into.	A few complaints have been received in respect of the stock of rice stored in West Bengal. The complaints were looked into and no irregularity has been reported by the FCI.	Accepted
12. (3.32)	The pending dues of the FCI should be cleared expeditiously and some time-limit should be fixed within which the Central Ministries be asked to make payments, in future, failing which some penal interest be levied.	The issue has been taken up with those Ministries at the higher level including with the Ministry of Finance.	Accepted
13. (3.33)	The FCI should take (i) drastic measures to bring down the Establishment Cost.	Several measures have been taken to reduce the administrative overheads, including introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its	Accepted

1	2	3	4	5
		permanent employees and surplus labour.		
	(ii) FCI should find ways and means to mobilize resources through diversification and finance their administrative expenses on their own without seeking any budgetary support from the Government for the purpose.	(ii) FCI has been prepared a Vision 2020 document and drawn up its Mission Statement together with an action plan. FCI intends to identify over a period of time suitable commercial activities within and outside the country.		
14. (3.34)	That FCI should step up the construction of godowns in North Eastern Region on a priority basis.	FCI has taken the initiative to reduce the cost of capital by proposing to issue bonds for an amount of Rs.5000/- crore during 2004-05. The Planning Commission have indicated that 10% of the allocated budget will be ear-marked for NE Region including Sikkim for construction of godowns/railways sidings during the Tenth Five Year Plan. FCI has already approved construction of 5000 MT each godowns in Mizoram and Tripura. State Governments have been requested to allocate suitable land. Additional storage capacity is being created in consultation with the State Governments.	Accepted	

15. (3.35)	(i) The FCI should go in for de-hiring of hired godowns. In de-hiring process, priority should be to de-hire the private godown, followed by godowns of other Public Agencies. (ii) It should re-examine its planning process so that there is sufficient availability of owned godowns and the dependence on the hired ones can be minimised.	(i) & (ii) Hired godowns are being dehired wherever utilization is low. Between January, 2003 and June, 2004. 72.63 Lakh MT of storage capacity of the private parties/ agencies has been dehired.	
16. (3.36)	Stringent norms be fixed towards storage and transit losses.	It is neither feasible or advisable to fix such norms since they would constitute bench mark. Each case of storage and transit loss is being investigated.	Not Accepted
17. (3.37)	The findings of the Committee constituted to study and rationalise the different labour system in vogue be completed within a period of six months.	The issue is *sub-judice* as the matter is before the National Industrial Tribunal, Mumbai.	Accepted
18. (3.38)	All cases of proxy labour especially in Haryana, Maharashtra and West Bengal be investigated by CBI or CVC or any other higher investigating agency and the Committee apprised of the outcome.	The matter has been re-examined and the CVC has been requested to conduct an enquiry regarding the proxy labour system in FCI.	Accepted

1	2	3	4	5
19.	**Storage**			
(4.20)	The Government should amend the relevant statute, so that the warehouse receipt can be pledged and the farmers are able to obtain subsidized institutional credit on pledge of the Warehouse Receipt.	Draft legislation to make the Warehouse Receipt a Negotiable instrument in being finalized in consultation with all stake holders. This would enable farmers to obtain bank loans against the Warehouse Receipt.	Accepted	
	CWC			
20. (4.21)	Norms for occupancy level of CWC godowns should be revised upwards and private party godowns should be dehired. Besides diversification, CWC should find ways and means for improving their profitability.	Targets for utilization may have to be fixed keeping in view various factors. Action for dehiring of godowns where occupancy is less than 25% has been initiated. Various measures, includng business diversification, have been taken by CWC to improve profitability.	Accepted	
21. (4.22)	(i) CWC be allowed to diversify and operate in Freight Container business and the Ministry of Railways should permit CWC to operate Inland Container Depot as per their own policy. (ii) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, food and Public Distribution should take up the matter of permitting	The Ministry is persuing the matter of granting permission to the CWC by the Ministry of Railways to operate Container Freight busines on the lines of CONCOR.	Accepted	

	CWC in this business with Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance/CCEA, at the earliest.		
22.	**SDF**		
(5.18)	(i) The Government should take proactive steps to step up utilization under SDF. The Standing Committee on SDF should meet once in every quarter of the year to review the situation arising out of under utilization of funds allocated under each Head of SDF.	The Department is taking proactive steps to improve utilization of the Fund and fixing quarterly targets.	Accepted
	(ii) A quarterly target for utilization of funds should also be fixed.		
	(iii) The Government should make sincere efforts for judicious utilization of funds within the financial year so that the amount surrendered is reduced to minimum.		
23.			
(5.18)	The Government should ensure that no false claims are accepted and money disbursed, still the paper work should be kept to a bare minimum so as to facilitate	The claims are being processed by keeping the documents to the bare minimum.	Accepted

1	2	3	4	5
	a large number of sugar mills to avail of the buffer subsidy claims.			
	Sugar			
24. (5.20)	The arrears of cane price of the sugar season 2001-02 onwards remaining unpaid after 14 days supply of cane by the growers together with the interest at the rate of 15% per annum should be recovered as arrears of land revenue.	The sugarcane growing States have been asked to strictly enforce the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 which provides for recovery of the arrears of cane price as arrears of land revenue.	Not Accepted	
	The scheme of one time assistance for an amount of Rs.678.00 crore to the States of U.P., Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar to clear the cane price arrears to provide sugar factories should be revived so that adequate opportunity is given to the State Governments for availing of this assistance.	Ministry of Agriculture has informed that the package was a one time assistance to clear the cane price arrears for 2002-03 sugar season in SAP States and no provision of funds has been made in the Budget for the year 2004-05. The States of Uttaranchal and Bihar have already availed of the assistance to the tune of Rs.45.45 and Rs.19 crore respectively and the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. are not agreeing to the terms and conditions of the package.		
25. (5.21)	Practice of declaring SAP by some	The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its report dated 5-5-2004 has held that	Accepted	

States should be discouraged even though it is not statutorily binding on the sugar factories to pay according to it.	States which have enacted legislation regarding regulation of supply and purchase of sugarcane have the right to fix the prices for sugarcane purchased for sugar mills which can be higher than the SMP determined by the Central Government. However the Central Government in its package of financial assistance for clearing the cane price arrears have stipulated the condition that the State Government would refrain from declaring SAP in future.
The Central Government should continue to declare SMP after due consultation with State Governments without any stipulation and State Governments should be discouraged to declare a separate SAP.	The SMP of sugarcane is fixed on the basis of the recommendation of CACP and after consultation with the State Governments and other stake holders.